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2002 CHEVY MALIBU LS - program car



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2000 FORD EXPEDITION XLT - 3rd seat - rear air - power windows - tilt - cruise



1998 S-10 SPORTSIDE - reg cab - 4 X 2 - AT-4



2002 2500 CHEV 2500HD - crew cab-AT-8 4X2-must see



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2001 FORD F350 - 5 speed - diesel - 4 X 2



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2000 CHEV. MALIBU LS - local trade - leather - sun roof - loaded



2001 CHEV EX CAB - 4 X 2 AT-8 - only 19K miles - like new



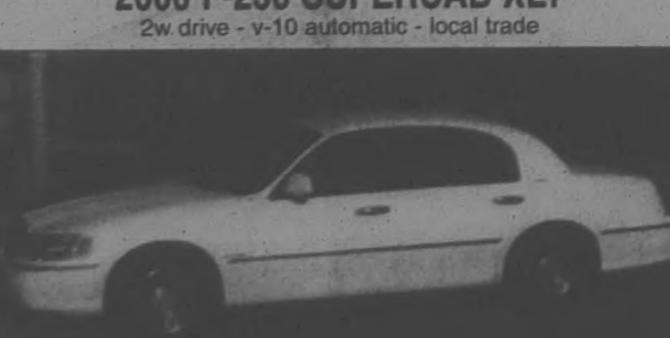
2000 F-250 SUPER CAB XLT - 2w. drive - v-10 automatic - local trade



1998 NISSAN - reg cab - AT-4



2002 S-10 BLAZER LS pkg - AT-6 - only 16K miles



2000 LINCOLN TOWN CAR - Signature Series - one owner - like new - MUST SEE



1999 FORD EXPLORER XLT - Power windows & locks - tilt - cruise, AM-FM CD player



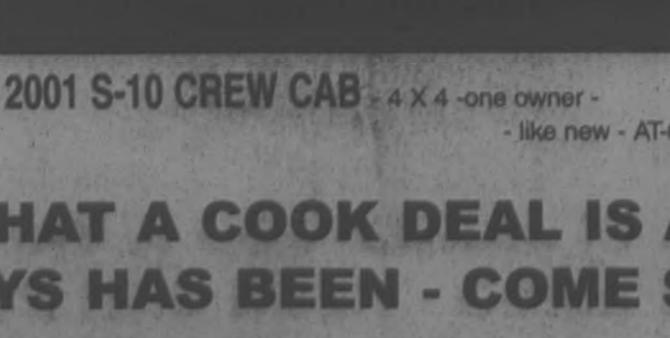
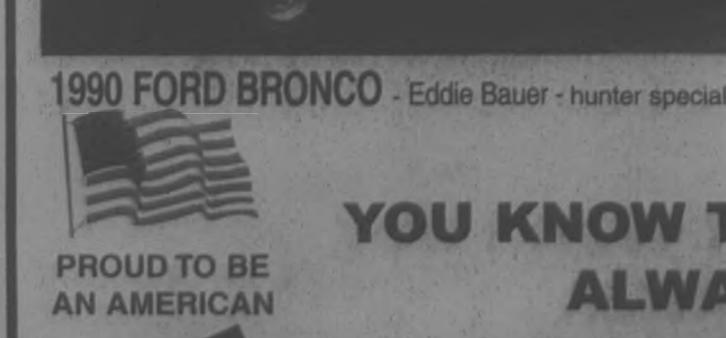
1990 FORD BRONCO - Eddie Bauer - hunter special



2001 S-10 CREW CAB - 4 X 4 - one owner - like new - AT-6



2001 CAMRY LE - sharp car - only 31,000 miles



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Tresa honored
with birthday
party

INSIDE
Tresa Matthews
celebrates his
first birthday

INSIDE
Kinston Lady
Bulldog Brittany
Hunko heads
upcourt

The Elba Clipper

Volume 106, Number 32 50 Cents Elba, Alabama Thursday, January 23, 2003 1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 2 Adv. Inserts

Upon retirement as judge

Gary McAliley honored with ceremony

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court Judge Gary McAliley officially said "so long" to his judge's seat Friday afternoon, Jan. 17, as he was honored with a retirement celebration inside the Coffee County Courthouse in Enterprise.

McAliley recently accepted an appointment from the governor to serve as district attorney for the Twelfth Judicial Circuit of Alabama for the next two years in place of former district attorney Mark Fuller who accepted an appointment to a federal judgeship.

With McAliley set to begin a new phase in his career, he chose to retire from his judge's seat thus allowing his colleagues, family and friends to gather Friday in honor of his career as a judge which extends over more than a quarter of a century.

McAliley began his judge's career in Kinston. He was the last Inferior Judge for Coffee County and elected the first District Judge for the county. In speaking of McAliley's

new venture, Judge Steven Blair said, "This is, I think, the start of another career for Judge McAliley."

Many of the speakers took an opportunity to joke with McAliley about his career as a judge and his switch to prosecu-

tor, but all seemed to agree that he has served the people of the area well as a judge for Coffee and Pike counties.

"His professionalism, knowl-

edge and integrity are well known," said one speaker.

Please See JUDGE, Page 3

Two judge vacancies filled

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Governor Don Siegelman made a couple more decisions affecting Coffee County before leaving office.

Recently as he named a new circuit judge for the Twelfth Judicial Circuit and a new district judge for Coffee County.

The circuit judge spot became vacant following the appointment of Gary McAliley as district attorney for the Twelfth Judicial Circuit and Siegelman named Judge Steven E. Blair to that spot.

Blair's appointment became

effective Monday, Jan. 13; however, his appointment left a vacancy in the district judge's spot for Coffee County.

Therefore, Siegelman filled this post by naming John C. Dowling of Enterprise as the new district judge for Coffee County. His appointment also became effective Monday, Jan. 13.

Each judge was notified of the appointment by letter from Siegelman in which he stated, "I appreciate your serving in this capacity, and I am confident you will render a valuable service to the citizens of Alabama."

John Dowling



HOME DAMAGED BY FIRE... The Elba Fire Department, along with units from the Elba Police Department and Coffee County EMS, responded last Wednesday afternoon, Jan. 15, to a house fire at 980 Carver Drive. Upon arriving at the scene, firefighters found a front bedroom of the house to be engulfed with flames as it was spreading through the attic. The fire appeared to have originated in that bedroom and completely destroyed the contents within it. However, firefighters were able to extinguish the flames before spreading occurred beyond the bedroom and attic thus leaving the rest of the house with smoke and heat damage. No injuries resulted from this fire as the home, owned by E.J. and Gladys Yelverton, was unoccupied at the time. Above, a family member uses a water hose to try and keep the fire from spreading while awaiting the arrival of Elba's volunteer firefighters.

Mobile home fire claims infant's life



Tragedy struck just south of Kinston Saturday, Jan. 18, when an afternoon mobile home fire claimed the life of one child and caused injuries to two other children. At approximately 4:28 p.m. last Saturday, the Kinston Fire Department was notified of a mobile home fire on Coffee County Rd. 479 just inside the Covington County line (2 miles south of Kinston on the Covington/Coffee County line). Upon arrival, firefighters found the home of David and Stacy Wise burning with three young children trapped inside, along with a 16-year-old male (whose name was not available). The 16-year-old, reported as the babysitter, was able to remove one child and assisted emergency personnel in removing the other two from the mobile home; however, the youngest of the three, 18-month-old DJ Wise, died from injuries sustained. The two other brothers, Alex and Austin, also sustained injuries and were transported to Mizell Memorial Hospital in Opp and then later to the Shriners Burn Center in Birmingham. The 16-year-old was also taken to Mizell Memorial but was released after an overnight stay. Also responding to the fire were units from the Opp Fire Department, Inc. Fire Department, Flat Creek Fire Department and Covington County Sheriff's Department. According to authorities, the cause of the fire is still under investigation by various agencies and State Fire Marshal Kenny Hardin.

Elba native appointed by Gov. Riley as legal advisor

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Prior to his inauguration on Monday of this week, Governor Bob Riley spent the past few weeks appointing individuals to serve in his cabinet, and an Elba native received one of those appointments last Thursday, Jan. 16.

Troy King, age 34, formerly of Elba, was appointed to be Riley's legal advisor. King joins the cabinet after serving as deputy attorney general to Bob Riley.

King most recently as assistant attorney general to Bob Riley.

As a member of my staff for the last four years, Troy has demonstrated a remarkable work ethic, sterling integrity, balanced judgment, a keen intellect and adherence to conservative principles," Riley said in a prepared statement. "Troy brings to the job of legal advisor a wealth of experience gained not only in his service to the state but in service as deputy attorney general to Bob Riley.

The financial picture will also be some better when the recently passed wet-dry petition begins to generate tax monies for the schools.

Prior went on to say that Please See KING, Page 3

Area Happenings

THE COFFEE COUNTY COMMISSION will hold its regular bimonthly meeting Monday, Jan. 27, at 9 a.m. in the community room of the county complex in New Brockton. The public is invited to attend.

THE ELBA CITY COUNCIL will hold its regular bimonthly meeting Monday, Jan. 27, at 6 p.m. in the council chambers of the city hall. The public is invited to attend.

category from 20,000 gallons to 1,000,000 gallons will be at \$1.25 per thousand gallons and over one million at \$1.00 per thousand gallons.

Board members also

approved a resolution to review all water rates each January and consider increasing at the cost of living rate annually rather than the large hikes as passed last year.

Board members were also told that Elba's wholesale electric supplier, AEC, had higher margins than expected and Elba would get a \$24,651 credit on wholesale electric costs.

Superintendent James Grimes reported that city officials are talking with someone interested in the city owned spec building, located in the industrial park. He explained that before any action is taken on this prospect, he will be reporting back to both the city council and the utility board. The two had agreed to share the cost of constructing the facility, which was built with an interest free loan.

NEW BROCKTON HONORS KING... Citizens of New Brockton were greeted by a sunny day Monday, Jan. 20, as they gathered for a "Walk in Remembrance" honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. More than 50 individuals attended a short service at the old Warren Smith School before beginning their journey from the school to Poplar Springs Baptist Church. Through the years, New Brockton has continued to celebrate Dr. King's life with the walk in remembrance in hopes of keeping his "dream" alive. Once those participating in the walk reached the church, a formal program was presented, and the celebration reminded everyone of the importance of the day.

DAVID STOKES being received by the Elba School System through various grants applied for and approved for local use. The largest part of

the funding is through the "No Child Left Behind" program, which is divided into more than one category.

According to Stokes, there is over \$300,000 a year presently

in the old Title I reading program gets \$260,000 a year; Title II, Professional Development is funded for \$72,000; and a competitive Technology grant of \$54,000 is to develop and upgrade the computers and connection network. There is also a \$6,000 grant that is used to operate the ISS (in school suspension) program and a Title IV grant of \$5,000 from the Safe & Drug Free Schools program.

Stokes said the computer network is used extensively. Every classroom has at least two computers on the system wide network and this computer network is used extensively, especially in the lower grades in the accelerated reading and math programs.

In other business Weeks

reported that the Elba Water & Electric Department was assisting with adding lighting to the connector road around the school complex.

Utility Board adjusts usage rates on some local commercial high volume water users

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The Elba Water and Electric Board voted at its last meeting on January 13th to roll back some of the commercial water rate hikes added last year. The

Board members also approved a resolution to review all water rates each January and consider increasing at the cost of living rate annually rather than the large hikes as passed last year.

Board members were also told that Elba's wholesale electric supplier, AEC, had higher margins than expected and Elba would get a \$24,651 credit on wholesale electric costs.

Superintendent James Grimes reported that city officials are talking with someone interested in the city owned spec building, located in the industrial park. He explained that before any action is taken on this prospect, he will be reporting back to both the city council and the utility board. The two had agreed to share the cost of constructing the facility, which was built with an interest free loan.

EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS
with Ferrin Cox

The City of Elba moves closer to making the legal sale of alcoholic beverages a reality as two local firms have officially filed their petition for a retail off-premise license. Advertising for the public hearings on their respective petitions began appearing in this issue of The Elba Clipper. Anyone who has been keeping up with this movement knows that before the city is accepting any application, they are asking individuals and firms to first complete the necessary work to get state approval and then come for local approval. Both the two applicants in this week's paper have done that already.

It is a gloomy picture being painted in and around the state capital of Alabama. These problems are real and must be addressed by people smarter than this country boy. However we need to also remember that virtually every state in the United States is having problems and most appear to be far worse than those we see here in Alabama. There are some of the larger, more spend-spend-state which are reporting bigger annual deficits than Alabama's total budget! A number of states are cutting vital health care programs but thus far Alabama is holding true in that area. The solution to these financial woes will probably be something none of us like, but we will be forced to hold our noses and approve it . . . the alternative could be a whole lot worse.

Our dog hasn't been in the battle of words over the idea of a pay raise for Alabama legislators. The idea didn't float very long in the organizational session earlier this month and for the sake of all Alabama, we hope the idea is dead for now. With budget shortfalls everywhere, it is a bad time to bring up an always unpopular pay raise proposal. While anyone who travels knows the high (and rising) cost of motels and restaurant eating, there are many, many people in Alabama who can only dream of a total income anywhere near that of our legislator's individual "expense accounts". We suggest that once the budget problems diminish (read that as economic improves), the lawmakers should prepare a breakdown of the reasonable cost to stay in Montgomery during a session. This could be widely circulated and if a raise is justified, the numbers would show. It shouldn't be hard to assemble some real, believable numbers that most reasonable folks could accept . . . they might even be acceptable to some newspaper editorial writers.

Regular satellite reports regularly give scientific types loads of information to use in their various fields of work. One weekly report that is sent out to all interested scientists (and to this newspaper publisher) gives an update on any and all ongoing major natural disasters, anywhere in the world. The wrap-up includes reports and satellite photographs. It is amazing to see the multitude of disasters which are occurring around the world week in and week out. This week we have in addition to the disastrous bushfires in Australia that made all the evening TV news shows, fires in Cambodia and other SE Asia countries; fires in the Amazon, which covers parts of both Columbia and Venezuela in South America; biomass burning in West Africa; floods in SouthEast Africa; a cyclone in Fiji in the Pacific Ocean; a dust storm in Egypt and pictures of extensive prescribed burning in the Southern United States.

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Coffee County & Surrounding Counties - \$17 per year
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Alabama Counties - \$19 per year - including tax
6 months - \$10
Outside Alabama - \$21 per year - 6 months - \$11

Volunteer firefighters should be thanked for their service

by Linda Hodge, Editor

I was saddened to hear about the tragic fire just south of Kinston over the weekend, and

my heart goes out to those suffering during this time of loss.

However, I am reminded, at the same time, of how appreciative we should be to those men

and women who VOLUNTEER to be firefighters. I don't know every detail of last weekend's event, but I am sure that had it not been for those volunteer firefighters who responded to the call for help last Saturday, the outcome of the fire surely would have been even more tragic.

Any man or woman that donates his/her time to help others should be thanked every day for the service they provide us.

Often times we take for granted that many of the small fire departments in this and other areas consist solely of those people who simply volunteer their time. These people generally have other full time jobs but are willing to answer a call for help whenever it might

come. That reason alone is enough to offer a simple thanks to the firefighters for what they do each and every time they answer an emergency call to extinguish a small grass fire that takes only a matter of minutes or a fully engulfed structure fire that takes several hours to bring under control.

Hey, these people have to contain a desire to help others...why else would they run full blast into a burning building without a doubt in their mind, and I don't know about everyone else, but I am glad to know we have dedicated people in this area that will jump up, drop everything in a moment's notice and come to the aid of us if the circumstance every shows itself.

The following arrests were

made: one for probation violation, two for failure to appear, five for possession of marijuana, four for possession of drug paraphernalia, one resisting arrest, one possession of a controlled substance, two for burglary, two for driving under the influence, one reckless endangerment, one lost cell phone, one missing equipment, one robbery, one harassment, one criminal trespassing, one lost property and one criminal littering.

The following arrests were

made: one for probation violation, two for failure to appear, five for possession of marijuana, six for possession of drug paraphernalia, one for drug paraphernalia, one for resisting arrest, one for possession of a controlled substance, one for theft of property, one for burglary and two for driving under the influence.

Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: one for carrying a pistol without permit, one for driving the wrong way on a one-way street, two for driving with a suspended driver's license, one for driving with a suspended driver's license not in possession, one for driving with a revoked driver's license, one for driving with no insurance, one for reckless endangerment and one for attempting to elude.

Daily activity highlights for the week were as follows:

MONDAY, JANUARY 13

River stage - 6.64 feet (6:12 a.m.); Alarm activated at 1798 Highland Dr. (12:04 p.m.); Routine activity.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

Prowler reported at 1229 Caroline St. (12:37 a.m.); Fire alarm activated at Dosey Trailers (12:43 a.m.); River stage - 6.71 feet (7:09 a.m.); Breaking and entering reported at 661 Lee St. (4:45 p.m.); Wreck report on Hwy. 84 W (11:19 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to the wreck on Hwy. 84 W (11:20 p.m.); Elba Fire Department dispatched to the wreck on Hwy. 84 W (11:26 a.m.); Routine activity.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

River stage - 6.64 feet (6:12 a.m.); Alarm activated at 1798 Highland Dr. (12:04 p.m.); Routine activity.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

One-vehicle wreck reported on Stroud Ave. (1:06 a.m.); River stage - 6.59 feet (5:58 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 3312 County Rd. 452 (4:57 p.m.); Civil disturbance (fighting) reported at 1101 Hickman Ave. (5:27 p.m.); Alarm activated at 1951 Hickman Ave. (5:46 p.m.); Disturbance reported at 725 Roosevelt Dr. (11:24 p.m.).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

River stage - 6.60 feet (6:26 a.m.); Alarm activated at 1798 Highland Dr. (12:00 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Wise Mill Church (6:27 p.m.); Burglary reported at Powell Trailer Court, Lot 12 (8:31 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1034 County Rd. 401 (9:38 p.m.).

MONDAY, JANUARY 20

River stage - 6.64 feet (6:26 a.m.); Alarm activated at 1798 Highland Dr. (12:00 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Wise Mill Church (6:27 p.m.); Burglary reported at Powell Trailer Court, Lot 12 (8:31 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1034 County Rd. 401 (9:38 p.m.).

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

River stage - 6.64 feet (6:26 a.m.); Alarm activated at 1798 Highland Dr. (12:00 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Wise Mill Church (6:27 p.m.); Burglary reported at Powell Trailer Court, Lot 12 (8:31 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1034 County Rd. 401 (9:38 p.m.).

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

River stage - 6.64 feet (6:26 a.m.); Alarm activated at 1798 Highland Dr. (12:00 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Wise Mill Church (6:27 p.m.); Burglary reported at Powell Trailer Court, Lot 12 (8:31 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1034 County Rd. 401 (9:38 p.m.).

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

River stage - 6.64 feet (6:26 a.m.); Alarm activated at 1798 Highland Dr. (12:00 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Wise Mill Church (6:27 p.m.); Burglary reported at Powell Trailer Court, Lot 12 (8:31 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1034 County Rd. 401 (9:38 p.m.).

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

River stage - 6.64 feet (6:26 a.m.); Alarm activated at 1798 Highland Dr. (12:00 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Wise Mill Church (6:27 p.m.); Burglary reported at Powell Trailer Court, Lot 12 (8:31 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1034 County Rd. 401 (9:38 p.m.).

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

River stage - 6.64 feet (6:26 a.m.); Alarm activated at 1798 Highland Dr. (12:00 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Wise Mill Church (6:27 p.m.); Burglary reported at Powell Trailer Court, Lot 12 (8:31 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1034 County Rd. 401 (9:38 p.m.).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

River stage - 6.64 feet (6:26 a.m.); Alarm activated at 1798 Highland Dr. (12:00 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Wise Mill Church (6:27 p.m.); Burglary reported at Powell Trailer Court, Lot 12 (8:31 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1034 County Rd. 401 (9:38 p.m.).

MONDAY, JANUARY 27

River stage - 6.64 feet (6:26 a.m.); Alarm activated at 1798 Highland Dr. (12:00 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Wise Mill Church (6:27 p.m.); Burglary reported at Powell Trailer Court, Lot 12 (8:31 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1034 County Rd. 401 (9:38 p.m.).

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

River stage - 6.64 feet (6:26 a.m.); Alarm activated at 1798 Highland Dr. (12:00 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Wise Mill Church (6:27 p.m.); Burglary reported at Powell Trailer Court, Lot 12 (8:31 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1034 County Rd. 401 (9:38 p.m.).

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

River stage - 6.64 feet (6:26 a.m.); Alarm activated at 1798 Highland Dr. (12:00 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Wise Mill Church (6:27 p.m.); Burglary reported at Powell Trailer Court, Lot 12 (8:31 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1034 County Rd. 401 (9:38 p.m.).

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

River stage - 6.64 feet (6:26 a.m.); Alarm activated at 1798 Highland Dr. (12:00 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Wise Mill Church (6:27 p.m.); Burglary reported at Powell Trailer Court, Lot 12 (8:31 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1034 County Rd. 401 (9:38 p.m.).

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

River stage - 6.64 feet (6:26 a.m.); Alarm activated at 1798 Highland Dr. (12:00 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Wise Mill Church (6:27 p.m.); Burglary reported at Powell Trailer Court, Lot 12 (8:31 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1034 County Rd. 401 (9:38 p.m.).

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

River stage - 6.64 feet (6:26 a.m.); Alarm activated at 1798 Highland Dr. (12:00 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Wise Mill Church (6:27 p.m.); Burglary reported at Powell Trailer Court, Lot 12 (8:31 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1034 County Rd. 401 (9:38 p.m.).

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

River stage - 6.64 feet (6:26 a.m.); Alarm activated at 1798 Highland Dr. (12:00 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Wise Mill Church (6:27 p.m.); Burglary reported at Powell Trailer Court, Lot 12 (8:31 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1034 County Rd. 401 (9:38 p.m.).

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

River stage - 6.64 feet (6:26 a.m.); Alarm activated at 1798 Highland Dr. (12:00 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Wise Mill Church (6:27 p.m.); Burglary reported at Powell Trailer Court, Lot 12 (8:31 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1034 County Rd. 401 (9:38 p.m.).

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

River stage - 6.64 feet (6:26 a.m.); Alarm activated at 1798 Highland Dr. (12:00 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Wise Mill Church (6:27 p.m.); Burglary reported at Powell Trailer Court, Lot 12 (8:31 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1034 County Rd. 401 (9:38 p.m.).

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

River stage - 6.64 feet (6:26 a.m.); Alarm activated at 1798 Highland Dr. (12:00 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Wise Mill Church (6:27 p.m.); Burglary reported at Powell Trailer Court, Lot 12 (8:31 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1034 County Rd. 401 (9:38 p.m.).

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

River stage - 6.64 feet (6:26 a.m.); Alarm activated at 1798 Highland Dr. (12:00 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Wise Mill Church (6:27 p.m.); Burglary reported at Powell Trailer Court, Lot 12 (8:31 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1034 County Rd. 401 (9:38 p.m.).

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

River stage - 6.64 feet (6:26 a.m.); Alarm activated at 1798 Highland Dr. (12:00 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Wise Mill Church (6:27 p.m.); Burglary reported at Powell Trailer Court, Lot 12 (8:31 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1034 County Rd. 401 (9:38 p.m.).

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

River stage - 6.64 feet (6:26 a.m.); Alarm activated at 1798 Highland Dr. (12:00 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Wise Mill Church (6:27 p.m.); Burglary reported at Powell Trailer Court, Lot 12 (8:31 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1034 County Rd. 401 (9:38 p.m.).

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

River stage - 6.64 feet (6:26 a.m.); Alarm activated at 1798 Highland Dr. (12:00 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Wise Mill Church (6:27 p.m.); Burglary reported at Powell Trailer Court, Lot 12 (8:31 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1034 County Rd. 401 (9:38 p.m.).

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

River stage - 6.64 feet (6:26 a.m.); Alarm activated at 1798 Highland Dr. (12:00 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Wise Mill Church (6:27 p.m.); Burglary reported at Powell Trailer Court, Lot 12 (8:31 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1034 County Rd. 401 (9:38 p.m.).

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

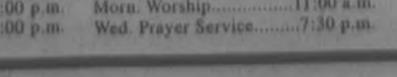
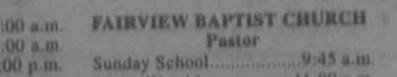
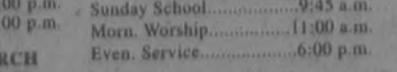
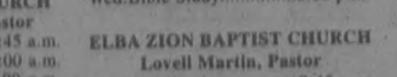
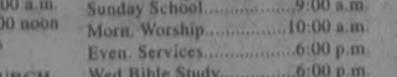
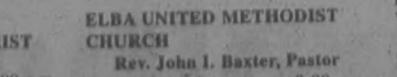
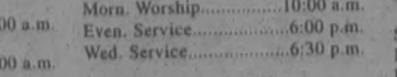
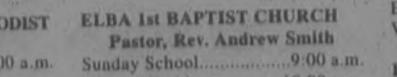
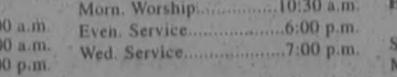
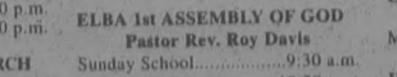
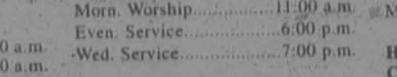
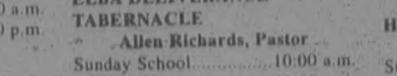
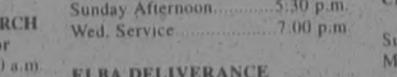
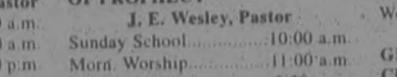
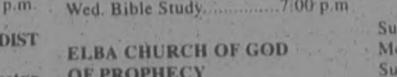
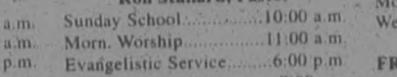
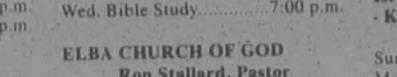
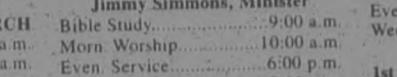
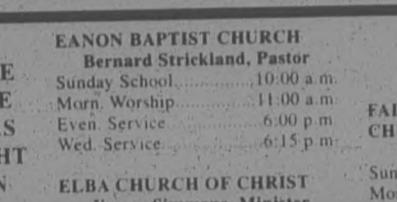
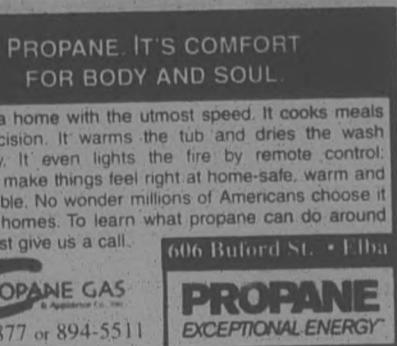
River stage - 6.64 feet (6:26 a.m.); Alarm activated at 1798 Highland Dr. (12:00 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Wise Mill Church (6:27 p.m.); Burglary reported at Powell Trailer Court, Lot 12 (8:31 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1034 County Rd. 401 (9:38 p.m.).

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CHURCH & AREA NEWS

A.M.E. Churches of S. AL Ninth District to hold gala banquet

The A.M.E. Churches of the South Alabama Conference, Ninth Episcopal District, will hold a gala banquet on Saturday, February 1, at 7:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn West in Dothan. Donations of \$50.00 per ticket will be accepted, with proceeds going toward the construction of an A.M.E. Center to be used for church and community activities. Checks made payable to the South Alabama Conference Lay Organization may be mailed to Loretha Reeves, Lay Organization Treasurer, 417 Mallon St., Dothan, AL 36303. Attire for the banquet is formal or semi-formal. Tickets are available from Franklin Simmons (334-393-3827), Loretha Reeves (334-793-5876), and Juanita Gibson (334-566-4325). For more information, contact Ms. Knight at 334-727-7059 or James Roberts at 334-792-8249. Please RSVP by Jan 17 by calling Knight. Donations toward this effort will be accepted at any time and may be mailed to Reeves at the address listed above.



SPORTS

Views from...

THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

The holiday on Monday gave the Mularz girls an extra day to clean up their act and by the end of the day they had actually discovered that they had as many pairs of socks as the rest of the dollar stores in town. The girls always fuss about needing socks for physical education class or just to wear with their shoes, and instead of digging deep in the laundry basket just run across the street and buy more. Well, on Monday they dug real deep and now they should have enough socks to last until at least the next holiday.

SPORTING AROUND THE AREA...

*** The Elba Tigers won two of three games last week to push their record to 5-8, and while the new record may not be anything to get overly excited about, the fact the Tigers have won four of their last six games should be a sign of things to come. This years team was probably the youngest ever at Elba High and still is with as many as four freshman on the court at any given time. The youngsters grew up winning and now that they have gained some varsity experience they have settled in and are playing winning basketball. The latest freshman to step up and shine is Mason Guley, and Elba came out ready to play and jumped out to a quick 6-2 lead behind the inside scoring of LaRay Williams and Marcus Henderson, only to see Straughn stage an early rally to pull even at 8-8 with 3:01 left in the opening stanza. Straughn grabbed the lead at 11:57 with 2:17 left, but the Tigers from Elba reeled off nine straight points to grab a 51-40 lead with 4:46 still left on the clock. Straughn cut the Elba lead to eight points three times over the final minutes, but Elba took command late and pulled away to claim the important 64-49 area win.

Kyle English connected on 11 of 14 free-throws and ended the night with 21 points to lead Elba, while Mason Guley and Marcus Henderson both scored 11 points and Brandon Kelley added 10. Windham led Straughn with 10 points.

E 15 10 13 26 - 64
S 14 12 12 11 - 49

Elba (64): English 21, Kelley 10, Guley 11, Reed 7, Williams 4, Henderson 11
Straughn (49): Hunt 9, Bracwell 3, Hancock 4, Freeney 9, Windham 10, Drier 6, Hendrix 6, Kinsaul 2.

(B GAME)

The Elba Tiger B team claimed its second win of the week with a 64-55 win over the Straughn Tigers. Stepha Burks scored 21 points to lead Elba, while Justin Foushee added 12 and Clark Skinner scored 11. Other Elba scorers included Ron Hill 7, Kimmy Morris 5, Lewis Johnson 4, Duke Carr 2 and Lance Sutley 2. Armstrong scored 15 points to lead Straughn.

Baskets by Kyle English and Mason Guley early in the final stanza helped Elba open up a 42-38 lead, and after a Straughn

*** The Elba Lady Tigers won all three games last week to even their record at 6-6 on the season. The Lady Tigers were expected to be competitive this season with the return of guards Laguna Mack and Ayonna Proctor, and have been just that as they have battled and all opponents for all quarters every night. Last week was a big one for junior guard Ayonna Proctor as she scored 30 points in a win over New Brockton and followed it up with a 25 point outing against Straughn. This little lady has been something special for many years and before she gets finished wearing the black and gold may very well be among the best ever at Elba High in girls basketball.

*** The Kinston Bulldogs upped their record to 8-13 last week with wins over Arion and Cottonwood, and while their record may be less than impressive, the Bulldogs are very much alive in the fight for the area championship. Kinston has lost only once all season to an area foe, and if the Bulldogs can claim some big road wins this week they could very well be in position to take home the title and host the area tournament. It won't be easy, but the Bulldogs have proved once again that records don't always tell the whole story.

*** Elba native Leavy Boutwell announced his resignation last week as the head football coach at Geneva High School and brought to an end one of the best seven year runs ever in Geneva Panthers football history. Coach Boutwell came to Geneva in 1996 and inherited a team that had posted only one winning season in the past decade. Under his guidance, Boutwell turned the Panthers into a 4A power in the Wiregrass as his team rolled to 33 consecutive regular season wins and made four trips to the state playoffs. Last seasons 4-6 record dropped his rating at Geneva to 55-22, but did little to tarnish the bright coaching career of the former Elba Tiger prep standout. Coach Boutwell left the door open to a possible return to the sidelines, but also loves to teach and is just as dedicated to making certain his students are successful in the classroom as his teams are on the field. What is next for Leavy Boutwell isn't clear, but one thing that is crystal clear is that this man can coach, and teach, and is a leader of young men and women. That is a trait that can't be found to find these days.

*** Increasing....The Abbeville High School girls basketball team defeated Dale County 89-0 last week in a school year basketball game. The Abbeville girls led 35-0 after one quarter, 64-0 at the half and 81-0 after three quarters, route to the lopsided win, and I suppose the Abbeville fans will make jokes about the shut-out for years to come. All coaches have reasons for what they do, but why a coach would want to embarrass a bunch of girls by running up such a score is beyond me.

SUPPORT ELBA TIGER BASKETBALL WITH YOUR ATTENDANCE

FRIDAY, JAN. 24

Abbeville at Elba
TUESDAY, JAN. 28

Zion Chapel at Elba
(B game starts at 4:30 PM)

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ELBA WATER & ELECTRIC DEPT.
Contact: James E. Grimes @ Ph. No. 897-2333

Improve record to 4-2 since holiday break

Tigers take charge late to stop Straughn 64-49

The Elba Tigers evened their record at 1-1 and moved to 4-8 overall Thursday night by claiming a 64-49 road win over the Straughn Tigers.

Elba came out ready to play and jumped out to a quick 6-2 lead behind the inside scoring of LaRay Williams and Marcus Henderson, only to see Straughn stage an early rally to pull even at 8-8 with 3:01 left in the opening stanza. Straughn grabbed the lead at 11:57 with 2:17 left, but the Tigers from Elba reeled off nine straight points to grab a 51-40 lead with 4:46 still left on the clock. Straughn cut the Elba lead to eight points three times over the final minutes, but Elba took command late and pulled away to claim the important 64-49 area win.

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Elba dumps Luverne 49-41

The Elba Tigers continued their mid-season slide Friday night when they pulled away with a 25-20 advantage.

Luverne came out determined to regain command early in the third quarter and outscored Elba 9-2 over the first three minutes of the stanza to take a 29-27 lead. A basket by Mason Guley with 4:33 left in the quarter pulled Elba even at 29-29, and the Tigers carried a 35-33 lead into the fourth quarter and watched as Luverne slowly scored 10 points and the Gamecocks leave town with a wild 71-68 win.

Elba came out looking to even the score against the Gamecocks after an early season loss in New Brockton last Tuesday night and staged a furious fourth quarter rally to take the lead only to run out of gas and see the Gamecocks leave town with a 71-68 win.

Luverne still owned a five-point lead at 13-8 early in the second quarter. However Elba's Kyle English nailed two free-throws to cut the lead to 13-10, and then Marcus Henderson, caught fire and scored seven straight points to spark an Elba rally as the hometown Tigers moved ahead 17-13 with 5:38 remaining in the half. Luverne answered the Elba rally with a 5-2 spurt to pull within 19-18 with 2:18 left, but Elba regained command behind the inside scoring punch of Marcus

Henderson and Marchello Reed and at the half went in with a 25-20 advantage.

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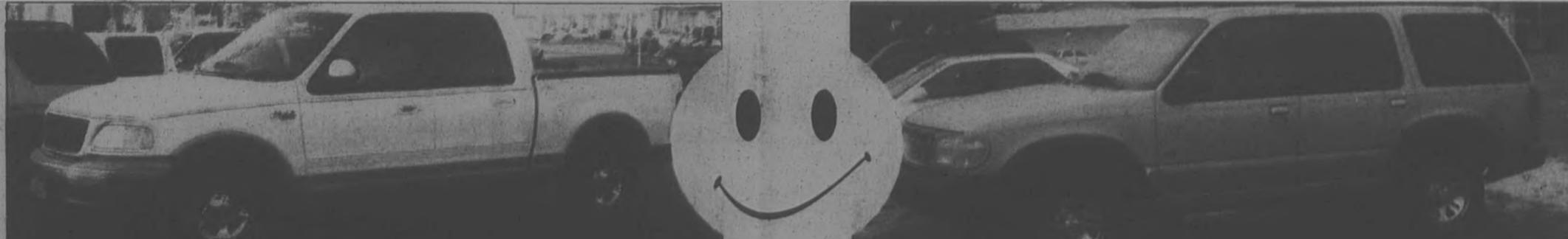
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The Elba Clipper

Volume 106, Number 33

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, January 30, 2003

1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

During Coffee County Commission meeting

Resident calls for full-time commissioners

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Commission meeting Monday, Jan. 27, was relatively short; however, those in attendance got quite a show as one county resident's remarks stirred some difference of opinions among the commissioners.

John B. Harris addressed the commission Monday morning and quickly let it be known that he believes the county should be represented by three full-time commissioners instead of seven part-timers.

Harris lives in the district represented by Commissioner Berneet Brooks, and he said the county needs commissioners who can be reached everyday by the residents. Instead, he said he feels as though the burden of dealing with county problems is left up to county engineer Randy Tindell, who is in the office everyday.

As Harris addressed the commission, Brooks asked him if he

had ever tried to call him concerning issues. Harris said he had not because he felt as though he would not get him.

To this, Brooks invited Harris to try and call him next time.

"I might surprise you," Brooks said.

Harris also questioned how the districts are divided within the county, and Brooks explained the division was necessary following the ruling of the lawsuit Dillard vs. Crenshaw in which the justice department said minorities had the right to have districts split in a fashion to allow the minority to have a 65 percent majority in one district.

Brooks said the population of blacks in Coffee County called for a division of the districts to allow a minority district on the office everyday.

As Harris concluded his remarks, Commissioner Tom Grimsley said he agreed wholeheartedly with Harris concerning the full-time commissioners.

"I think we need three full-time commissioners and a full-time elected chairman," Grimsley said.

His remarks were echoed by Commissioner Doug Dalrymple who said he too feels the county would be better served by three full-time commissioners.

Before the meeting concluded, it became evident that Brooks had taken offense to the morning's remarks as he insulted another commissioner may have had something to do with "Fairness."

"For a commissioner to sit up here and prompt someone to come here and do this, I think this is unprofessional," he said.

On a positive note, Commission Chairman Robert Stephens discussed a few good things involving the county.

"We're in good financial shape," he said.

Stephens commended the

Please See CCC, Page 3

Elba COC looking to make move in near future

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Elba Chamber of Commerce/Economic Development office has been marked for redevelopment for quite some time, and Whitworth said the work is finally coming together to get these things done.

With the rehabilitation project of the levee underway, the state recently acquired several homes that were located too close to the levee and marked for removal. One such home, acquired by the state, was given to the City of Elba with the understanding it would be moved from that location. According to Kaye Whitworth, executive director of the Elba Chamber of Commerce/Economic Development office, that is when the idea to create a permanent home for the dual office was born.

"Mayor James Grimes thought this home would be a wonderful site for the chamber and economic development office," she said. "Our project began at that point."

Of course, the first question to be answered was where to move the home, and Whitworth said the most obvious place was an area of the city in which plans were already underway to that will too will one day.

She said the idea with the Folsom home is to create a museum out of the former governor's home by restoring the inside and outside of the home and developing an heirloom garden with fencing around it. As for the jail, she said the project is still underway and this too will one day.

"We are going to restore the chamber/economic development home as antique looking as possible," Whitworth said.

"We certainly feel it will be an asset to our office to be located in this section of town especially with the Folsom home and jail projects ongoing."

"We are going to restore the chamber/economic development home as antique looking as possible," Whitworth said.

"We will gladly accept any antique donations from local citizens to spruce up the home," she said. "And, we would love to have the help of local garden clubs, etc. with the landscaping around the home."

At this point, the brick work around the house has been completed, and Whitworth said the next project will be to install white siding on the house accented with black shutters.

As for the inside of the home, she said she and assistant chamber director Lisa Hanchey will each have an office. There will

also be a large conference room and kitchen area inside the home.

"I feel as if this home will not only benefit the chamber and economic development offices, but it will be a building to benefit the whole community," Whitworth said. "With the large conference room and kitchen area, this building could be an ideal spot to host business and social events."

At this point, Whitworth said the plans are to complete the renovations by late Spring or early Summer; however, she said that is not a definite time frame. Any person or group interested in volunteering to help with the renovations or to donate an antique for the office, please contact the Elba Chamber of Commerce at 897-3125.

Area Happenings

THE NEW BROCKTON TOWN COUNCIL will hold its regular monthly meeting, Monday, Feb. 3, at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at New Brockton Town Hall. The water board will hold its meeting ahead of the council at 5:30 p.m. at the same location.

COTTER COUNTY LAKE will open for the season on Saturday, Feb. 8.

NOTICE

Revenue Commissioner
Rouine Burns reminds
Coffee County property
owners that the deadline to
pay property taxes without
a penalty is Friday, Jan. 31
(TOMORROW).



ARCTIC BLAST FREEZES COFFEE COUNTY...Residents of Elba and Coffee County joined many others across the southeast portion of the United States late last week in trying to stay warm as the area weathered extremely cold temperatures from an Arctic blast. Area residents were awakened to the coldest temperatures from the blast Friday morning, Jan. 24, as thermometers registered in the low teens. Although the unseasonably cold temperatures made it hard to stay warm, it did allow for the creation of some beautiful ice sculptures. The fountain in the courtyard at the Coffee County Courthouse in Elba was no exception as the water flowing through the well froze to create a fountain of hanging icicles. The above picture was taken at approximately 7 a.m. last Friday morning as the clock outside The Peoples Bank in Elba registered the temperature at 15 degrees, and although last week's weather conditions reminded area resident that it does indeed get cold in the south occasionally, temperatures have slowly been returning to the norm this week.

Elba's Workman's Comp insurance increases drastically

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

Efforts to find an alternate insurer failed, according to the mayor.

City employees experienced an unusually high claims year during 2002, which is the cause of the big increase. There were three claims of over \$30,000 according to City Clerk Wayne Grantham. This experience rate will reflect on the City's expense record for three years.

Permanent injury expenses continue to impact the experience rate used by the insurance companies to determine annual rates. Council members accepted the increase as something they had to have and vowed to launch and maintain an intense safety campaign to prevent

injuries and thus expensive Workman's Comp expenses.

Police Chief R. W. Whitworth reported to the council that the new computers have been installed, but complete networking is still underway. He received permission from the council to get prices on the new software needed to record and integrate all departmental records.

Grimes reported that the Federal Emergency Management Agency has completed its audit of the flood buyout program. The city is expecting a written report on the findings.

Please See CITY, Page 3



TOPS IN NATION...The Coffee County 4-H Meats Judging Team placed 1st at the National contest held in Denver, Colo. on January 11th. Shown from left are Stan Windham, County Agent; Carrie Edwards, Enterprise; John Sawyer, New Brockton; Heather Carroll, New Brockton; Ann Schieffer, New Brockton; and Tom Bonner, Auburn University. The top five teams at the contest were Alabama, Wisconsin, Indiana, Colorado, and Minnesota. Ranking individually, overall winners were Carrie Edwards first place, Heather Carroll second place, and Ann Schieffer third place.